



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

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August 28, 2007

Lewis County Canvassing Board
P.O. Box 29
Chehalis, WA 98532

Dear Canvassing Board Members:

In accordance with RCW 29A.04.570, the State Election Certification and Training Program conducted a comprehensive review of election procedures in Lewis County during the 2006 Primary Election.

The RCW also requires a follow-up visit prior to the next Primary or General Election to verify the County Auditor's Office has taken the steps necessary to correct the changes recommended in the review report.

The reviewer visited the Lewis County Elections Department on July 25, 2007 and found that the Lewis County Elections Department has changed its procedures to comply with the recommendations in the review report. Some of the changes are not applicable until the 2008 election cycle, including candidates for precinct committee officers in the Notice of Election and sending questionnaires to cities, towns, and districts. The County is prepared to make those changes at the appropriate time.

The elections department staff provided sample copies of their free access notice for voters using a provisional ballot, the letter they will send to inactive voters 18 days prior to the election, a revised Confirmation Notice, and a revised special ballot request. They also provided a sample ballot in a color distinguishing it from regular ballots and a sample public notice of their Canvassing Board Meetings.

Prior to the submission of the Final Review Report, the Lewis County Elections Department purchased new containers to securely store the ballots while not being processed and created a seal log to document access to the ballots.

The reviewer recommended the County add a second deposit site for county-wide elections. While it is not required for the 2007 Primary Election, they plan on having a second deposit site for the 2007 General Election.

Lewis County has not yet established a Disability Access Committee. It is still attempting to obtain the required members. Lewis County should make the Committee a priority and ensure that the Committee has a plan submitted as soon as possible.

I commend the elections department for their obvious dedication to the election process and their desire to improve an already good operation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360.902.4159 or tbuckles@secstate.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Buckles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Buckles".

Tracy Buckles
Elections Program Specialist